

Message Text

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13

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-11 NSC-07 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5395

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

SECDEF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15511

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON USSR POSITION
ON MBFR

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 30, LOCAL
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SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR (AND FORMER AIDE TO

GROMYKO) RAISED MATTER OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER US WAS PREPARED TO DROP COMMON CEILING APPROACH AND MOVE TOWARD SOVIET POSITION ON REDUCTIONS. IF NOT, SOVIET REP SAID THAT THERE WOULD THEN BE NO MOVEMENT IN VIENNA.

2. SOVIET SAID US SEEMED TO BE IGNORING CERTAIN POLITICAL REALITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, NOTABLY SOVIETS' CONCERN ABOUT STABILITY IN THE AREA. IF THEY APPEARED TO BE MOVING OUT OF THE AREA TO THE EXTENT NOW DEMANDED BY THE WEST, THIS WOULD LEAD TO FEELINGS IN EASTERN EUROPE THAT THE "OCCUPIER" WAS DEPARTING. SOVIET REP SAID THIS WOULD BE DESTABILIZING AND COULD LEAD TO MORE PRAGUE SPRINGS. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SOVIETS COULD REDUCE ANY TROOPS AT ALL. SOVIET REP REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOTH US AND USSR TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY NOW STOOD, BUT THAT THE PRESSURES WERE ON US TO REDUCE, SO SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO RECIPROCATATE, BUT NOT IN THE AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE WEST.

3. SOVIET REP ADDED, ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, THAT SOME REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF US NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN EUROPE WAS ANOTHER OF THE POLITICAL REALITIES HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

4. COMMENT. WE HAVE KNOWN THE SOVIET REP FOR SOME TIME. HE IS A COOL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE CHARACTER AND SPEAKS WITH SEEMING AUTHORITY, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH GROMYKO. ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS ON EAST EUROPEAN DESTABILIZATION ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES SURPRISING, WE FIND IT REMARKABLE THAT HE WAS WILLING TO STATE THIS ASPECT OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE SOVIET POSITION SO FRANKLY. WE HAVE NOT HEARD IT STATED THIS BLUNTLY BEFORE.
HILLENBRAND

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